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Breaking Barriers: African American Women of Kentucky

Each of our lives has been affected by the accomplishments of African American women. Many of these women have labored in silence and anonymity toward the goals of freedom and equality and against the barriers of silent prejudice, outright racism, and the hopelessness of forbidden opportunities. Others have been outspoken leaders at the forefront of civil rights issues and confrontations.

Kentucky's black women have made significant contributions to our society in the fields of business, medicine, education, government, entertainment, art, politics, sports, law, the military, and civil rights. This exhibit cannot possibly include all of Kentucky's pioneering black women, but it is a tribute to the entire line of noted and unsung heroines who have persisted in their battles, and by doing so, have broken down the barriers of oppression.

The exhibit features images and short biographical sketches of twenty-eight of Kentucky's African American women who have made Kentucky a better place to live for all her citizens.



***"Race and sex were twin strikes against me. I'm
not sure which was the hardest to break down."***

Alice Allison Dunnigan
(1906 – 1983), Russellville

Number of panels: 7 poster panels

Size of panels: 24" x 36"

The Civil War in Kentucky

The Civil War was the most devastating event in the history of Kentucky and the effects of that conflict are felt in Kentucky to this day. A border state, Kentucky became a battleground where brother fought against brother. Guerrilla warfare spread mayhem across the state and engendered hatred that lasted for decades.

Before the Civil War, Kentucky was a political and economic leader among the states, but after the war lost much of its position of national prominence. As a result of the war, slaves were set free, but they attained this "freedom" under certain circumstances that resulted in generations of separation and discrimination.

The Civil War in Kentucky provides an overview of this pivotal event. What was life like in Kentucky before the war, and how did the war change that way of life forever? How did Kentucky function during the war with two state governments, one Confederate, and the other Union? The exhibit outlines the military campaigns fought in Kentucky, with emphasis on the Battle of Perryville. It also introduces many of Kentucky's participants in the war, from generals to foot soldiers to farmers and slaves. The staff of the Kentucky Historical Society prepared this exhibit using period photographs, drawings, and documents, many previously unavailable in public.



Number of pieces: 11 poster panels

Size of panels: 24" x 36" (approx.)

The Clays of Kentucky

In the entire scope of Kentucky history, only a few families have played an influential role in public life over many decades. The Clay family is one of those. From the settling of Kentucky in the late 18th century to the close of the 20th century, members of the Clay family have made important contributions in business, politics, agriculture, and women's rights. The Clays have greatly affected life in Kentucky and the course of the commonwealth's history. This poster-panel exhibit contains images and documents rarely seen in public.



Number of pieces: 8 poster panels
Size of panels: 24" x 36" (approx.)

Corsets, Croquet, and Crusades: Kentucky Women's Lives, 1889-1914

The turn of the 20th century was a time of change for American women. The technological advances, economic development, and social turmoil that seized the nation affected every facet of life - from the clothing people wore to the causes they embraced. This exhibit celebrates the joys, hardships, and challenges facing Kentucky women during this exciting era.

For the majority of Kentucky women of the period who married and raised families, the weddings, births, and funerals depicted in the exhibit were the benchmarks of their lives. But some women challenged Victorian traditions by earning college degrees, working outside the home, and crusading for better schools, more humane working conditions, and woman suffrage.

Period images of women in domestic, occupational, and social settings illustrate the daily lives of average women. The exhibit introduces Kentucky's leading female reformers and explores these emerging and diverging lifestyles in this perceptive look at women adjusting to a changing world.



Number of pieces: 9 poster panels

Size of panels: 24" x 36"

Discovering Kentucky's Abraham Lincoln

Did you know . . . Abraham Lincoln had a perfectly ordinary childhood?

Abraham Lincoln was born February 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky. He lived in a one-room log cabin, did chores, hunted, played, and went to school rarely. These were all common experiences for frontier children in the 1810s and 1820s.

Kentucky played a primary role in forging the family and political life of President Abraham Lincoln. Although he left the Bluegrass State as a boy, Lincoln's wife, in-laws, and many of his friends, law partners, political associates, and mentors were Kentuckians. During the Civil War, Lincoln's relationship with his native state was crucial to Union chances for winning the war.

"Discovering Kentucky's Abraham Lincoln" is a five-panel mobile exhibit which illustrates Lincoln's ties to his native state. Each panel is dedicated to a different theme: "A Frontier Childhood," "Becoming President," "Ending Slavery," "Lincoln and Kentucky at War!" and "Remembering Lincoln Differently."



Number of pieces: 5 self-standing panels

Size of panels: 48" x 96"

Enduring Excellence: Kentucky's Centennial Businesses

Kentucky business history is an often-overlooked aspect of the state's development. The Kentucky Centennial Business program recognizes businesses that have been in operation for at least one hundred years. Currently there are more two hundred-eighty businesses registered with the program. This exhibit takes a broad look at twenty-eight of those businesses, spread across the entire commonwealth. From ferries, funeral homes, newspapers and publishers, to restaurants, cutlers, and pottery makers, Kentucky's business history is a rich heritage of enterprise and service.



Number of pieces: 9 poster panels
Size of panels: 24" x 36" (approx.)

Images of Liberty: 100 Years of the Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island

Towering over New York harbor for over one hundred years, the Statue of Liberty is a marvel of engineering technique and construction skill and one of the most powerful symbols of liberty in the world.

The Statue of Liberty became closely associated with immigration after the opening of nearby Ellis Island in 1892. Today, over one hundred million Americans can trace their heritage to the seventeen million immigrants who entered America through Ellis Island before its closing in 1954.

In 1986, the statue was showing serious signs of deterioration. A successful campaign was conducted to restore this symbol of liberty and freedom. This exhibit presents rare images of "Lady Liberty" and includes photographs of her initial construction in France, the immigration period, and her restoration.



Number of pieces: 18 poster panels
Size of panels: 18"x24"

Kentucky Colors: Union and Confederate Flags of the Civil War

During the Civil War, United States Army regulations required each regiment to carry two flags, also called colors. One was the National Color, patterned with the familiar Stars and Stripes. The other was the Regimental Color, officially required to display an American eagle and a scroll bearing the unit's name. In reality, these banners varied widely in size, color, and design. Confederate flags were even less standardized. Many of these flags are now torn and in tatters, grim reminders of Kentucky's role in our nation's most tragic event.

These unique and precious flags are from the collection of the Kentucky Historical Society's Military History Museum. The exhibit features numerous large color images of surviving Kentucky flags and brief histories of the regiments that bore them.

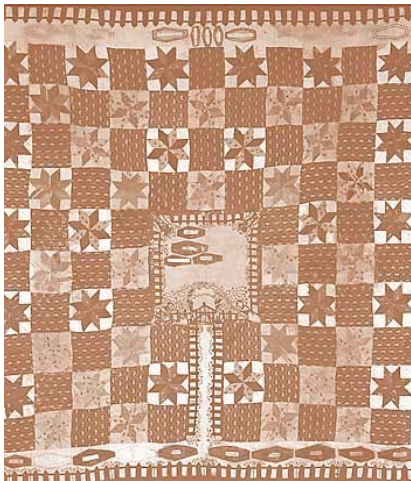


Number of pieces: 10 poster panels
Size of panels: 24" x 36"

Kentucky Quilts: Images of Quilts from the Collection of the Kentucky Historical Society

The Kentucky Historical Society has many wonderful quilts in its collection. They range from well-worn everyday quilts to those that are visually stunning and show little sign of use. These quilts are pieces of history, documenting the style, fabric, skill, and artistic talent used by Kentucky quilters in different eras. Each quilt is a unique document of the maker and the time in which it was made. Sometimes these fabric scrapbooks contain treasured bits of cloth from party and everyday dresses, ties, or children's clothing – memories lovingly stitched together.

This exhibit contains full color images of fifteen quilts, including family quilts, crazy quilts, and log cabin quilts. Examples are shown of various techniques used in quiltmaking, such as pieced, appliqué, and trapunto. Several quiltmakers are profiled within the exhibit.



Number of pieces: 9 poster panels
Size of panels: 24" x 36"

Lewis & Clark: Kentuckians and the Corps of Discovery

The years 2003 – 2006 mark the 200th anniversary of the exploration of the Louisiana Purchase and Oregon Country by an expedition led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. Rather than attempt to tell the details of the first American overland exploration of the American West, this exhibit examines Kentucky's numerous connections to the Corps of Discovery.

The journey across the continent began in Washington, D.C., but the Corps was assembled in Kentucky and departed for the West from Louisville. Many members of the expedition were recruited in Kentucky, but information about them is limited. Many do not appear in public records, leaving unanswered questions about the identities of these men who ventured west into history. When Lewis and Clark returned to St. Louis, the news was quickly carried to Kentucky, where it was first published in a Frankfort newspaper. That newspaper report was then carried to the East, where the rest of the nation and the world were informed of the return of Lewis and Clark. As the party traveled to Washington, D.C., it crossed Kentucky, enjoying congratulations and celebrations offered in its honor. Number of pieces:



Lewis at Black Eagle Falls, Edgar S. Paxson, oil, 1912
The Montana Historical Society

9 poster panels

Size of panels: 24" x 36"

The exhibit is a collaborative project of the Kentucky Historical Society, The Filson Historical Society, and the Kentucky Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission.

Life Along the River: An Ohio River Portrait

The story of the Ohio River is the story of the people who live and die, labor and play along the banks of this mighty river. Through their photographs, their stories, and their family and creative traditions, Kentuckians share with us the history and folklife that they have preserved and paint for us a personal portrait of their lives along the river. The exhibit has been condensed from an award-winning, major exhibit produced by the Kentucky Historical Society with funding support from the Kentucky Humanities Council. Included are dozens of photographs and quotes from Kentuckians who have felt the great river's impact in their lives.

"The river is a continuation of everything. It's constant; it's always there, always has been, always will be. People who were born along the river and grew up with it are pretty used to its cycles . . . I will always feel a need to come back and commune with the river -- to go down and watch the river flow, watch the boats come down the river. . . watch the lights at night."

- Patsy Terrell, longtime resident of Barlow, KY, now residing in Hutchinson, KS



Number of pieces: 9 poster panels
Size of panels: 24" x 36" (approx.)

The Life & Legend of Daniel Boone

"Many heroic exploits and chivalrous adventures are related to me that exist only in the regions of fancy. With me the world has taken great liberties, and yet I have been but a common man. It is true that I have suffered many hardships and miraculously escaped many perils, but others of my companions have experienced the same."

- Daniel Boone quoted by "A Travelor" *Detroit Gazette*,
7/4/1823

Daniel Boone is a mythic hero of the modern age. Unlike the mythical lives of ancient heroes like Ulysses and King Arthur, Boone's activities can be documented with historical records. However, many of those who have interpreted this unique man have discarded the facts to create a hero that embodies their personal visions and agendas. Since the 1784 publication of John Filson's "autobiography" of Boone, biographers, artists, and others have portrayed him in one of several heroic molds, including the fierce warrior, contemplative backwoods philosopher, adventuresome frontiersman, hermit recluse of the woods, and pragmatic civilizer. But as the television theme song affirms, "Daniel Boone was a man – a real man." As a hunter whose business required him to work on and beyond the fringe of the settled world, he accepted danger as the price of opportunity. And while he had little admiration for courts, lawyers, and the trappings of society, he dabbled in many of the occupations that characterized civilization on the frontier. This exhibit explores the visions imposed on Boone by past biographers and artists and introduces his real life as understood by modern scholars.



Number of pieces: 10 poster panels
Size of panels: 24" x 36"

The L & N Railroad

Described as the most significant internal improvement in Kentucky during the nineteenth century, the Louisville & Nashville Railroad grew to become one of the most significant rail lines in the U.S. From its beginnings prior to the Civil War through its 1986 merger with CSX, the L&N has played a major role in the history of Kentucky. This poster exhibit examines that history with dozens of images and lively text.



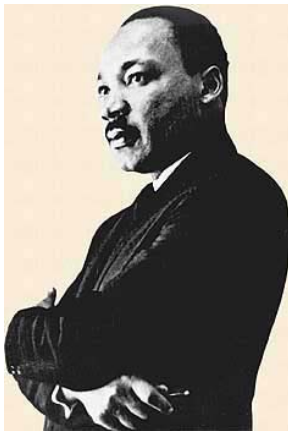
Number of pieces: 9 poster panels
Size of panels: 24" x 36" (approx.)

Martin Luther King Jr., and the Civil Rights Movement

In essence, the modern civil rights movement began December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, when Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white passenger. Over the next few years, protests and demonstrations became more frequent and more organized, as did the often violent backlash of counterattacks.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., emerged as the major voice for the civil rights movement nationally. Under his leadership, the tactics of non-cooperation with unjust laws, persistent demonstrations, and nonviolent responses to physical assault became the guiding principles of a mass movement designed to arouse the conscience of the nation. For his advocacy of non-violence, Dr. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

This exhibit examines the events and personalities of the civil rights movement from 1955 to Dr King's assassination in 1968. Dozens of stunning photographs and numerous quotes from Dr. King's most important speeches complement this important exhibit.



Number of pieces: 20 poster panels
Size of panels: 19" x 40" (approx.)

A Matter of Opinion: The Editorial Cartoons of Hugh Haynie

"By expressing my opinion perhaps others will search their own, and if I cause one other person to think and examine his own views, then there is a reason for doing what I do and the way I do it."

Hugh Haynie

The thirty-one editorial cartoons in this exhibit highlight Hugh Haynie's illustrious career at the *Louisville Courier-Journal*. Hired by owner Barry Bingham Sr. in 1958, Haynie emerged as one of the leading political cartoonists of his time. His award-winning artwork and viewpoints enraged and engaged readers for thirty-eight years. It is a tribute to Haynie that he fit style to circumstance, and mood to event. He was equally adept at depicting a social issue, an obituary, or the spirit of a holiday. At the time of his death in Louisville on November 26, 1999, Hugh Haynie had produced over 3,000 political cartoons.

"... I don't (and can't) try to please everybody ... in fact I don't try to please ANYBODY ... I just try to stir up some reaction in the reader. ... I don't try to mould opinion ... or change it ... I just try to make people think."

Hugh Haynie



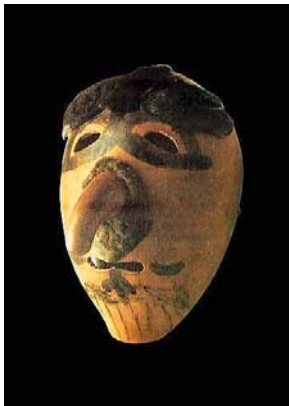
Number of pieces: 8 poster panels

Size of panels: 24" x 36"

Of Father Sky and Mother Earth: Early Southeastern Indian Art and Culture

When Spanish explorers first ventured into the interior of North America in the early 1500s, they found a civilization unlike any they had seen before. Agricultural villages clustered around massive earthen mounds and sophisticated economic and religious systems characterized these native societies. Realizing that the natives would not adopt Old World laws and customs, the invaders killed many of these Native Americans. But European diseases as mild as measles were a deadlier foe and, within a century, the civilization was destroyed.

This exhibit, created by the University of Georgia and the Georgia Humanities Council, examines the people of the Mississippian Period (AD 700-1500). Images of prehistoric artifacts and art created by the first Europeans to encounter the Indians illustrate the history of the period from its beginnings to European exploration. Informative text explains how the archeological evidence that remains reflects aspects of everyday life, from food and clothing to leisure and religion.



Number of pieces: 9 poster panels
Size of panels: 24" x 36"

Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition: Kentuckians and World War II

There are watershed moments in the history of a nation and World War II was one of those times. While some citizens would continue to lead lives that remained almost changeless from decade to decade, most people emerged from this conflict with new outlooks on a changed world. For Kentuckians, life changed drastically between 1941 and 1945.

The exhibit examines what took place, and why, both on the home front and overseas. It tells the story of the incredible spirit and efforts of Kentuckians and their sacrifices and hardships, joys and sorrows. This exhibit, created by the Kentucky Historical Society and funded by the United States Department of Defense, contains color photographs of artifacts and images from the collections of the Kentucky Historical Society's museums.



Number of pieces: 9 poster panels
Size of panels: 24" x 36"

Reflections of the Past: A Kentucky Sampler, Volume 1 & Volume 2

Reflections of the Past is a portrait of life as experienced by Kentuckians. Indeed, it "aims to recreate the sense of a giant family album," and the images recall family and individual memories of Kentuckians, regardless of their area of the state, their race, or their occupation. Images are presented in four general groups representing areas found repeatedly in various collections. The themes are "Family Life," "Work," "Transportation," and "The Good Old Summertime." Often dramatic or charming as individual images, the photographs as a group show what Kentuckians in the past considered important. Modern Kentuckians will find that their concerns parallel those of their ancestors. James C. Anderson of the University of Louisville Photographic Archives supervised development of the exhibition from over two million photographs in the collections of over three hundred libraries and archives across Kentucky.



Number of pieces per volume: 16

Size of photographs: 14" x 18"

Each volume of this exhibit may be ordered separately.

Visions of the Rural South: The Photography of Doris Ulmann

Pioneering female photographer Doris Ulmann recorded some of the most famous faces of the 1920s and 1930s in her hometown of New York City. However, she discovered her most personally satisfying work far away from her Park Avenue portrait studio – in rural America. In 1930, Ulmann expressed a passion for having her pictures “serve some social purpose,” and produce “a lasting thing for the world.” To that end, she began summer sojourns into southern Appalachia, carefully studying the faces of the region’s inhabitants. Ulmann’s photographs reflect the character and beauty of people who lived in rural America – that they were industrious and prosperous in their simplicity and that they were devoted to family and friends. Her photographs suggest that these Americans had their priorities well aligned and that they had cultivated these values in another century from ancestors who were the true American pioneers. The exhibit features thirty-two of Doris Ulmann’s photographs and text that describes her motivations and legacy.



Number of pieces: 8 poster panels
Size of panels: 24" x 36"

Women Working For Change

Women Working for Change documents the contributions that Kentucky women have made to the cultural, intellectual, medical, and political life in Kentucky from post-Civil War years to the middle of the 20th century. Photographs from statewide repositories were surveyed and those chosen best illustrate the activities of women in these four areas. The exhibit includes often-neglected minority groups and presents both urban and rural women. While some emphasis is placed on the achievements of well-known women, the contributions of less famous women are also included.



Number of pieces: 8 poster panels
Size of panels: 24" x 36"